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**Statement by Dawn Francis, Colchester Town Manager**

**Issued: Wednesday, January, 21, 2015**

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We appreciate the community's patience as we have undertaken investigations including external reviews and an evidence audit in the aftermath of Tyler Kinney's arrest on November 10, 2014.

Shortly after the arrest, Chief Morrison called for an audit of the Department's evidence and procedures. On November 24th, with the knowledge of the Selectboard and Chief Morrison, I engaged the services of Dan Troidl, a former 27 year veteran investigator with the Vermont State Police and now owner of DT Investigators, to conduct an independent and objective assessment of the Colchester Police Department's investigation practices and procedures as it relates to an earlier allegation involving Tyler Kinney.

Chief Morrison and I are providing a summary of the findings of these investigations, the recommendations for changes to policies, procedures and resources as well as a status report on implementing same. While in hindsight, a more rigorous investigation could have taken place and some policies/best practices were not followed, I am supportive of Chief Morrison's leadership and believe she has the support of the Department's employees and the Colchester Selectboard to move the Department forward such that it will be an even stronger organization in the future.

We thank the community for their support of Chief Morrison and the Colchester Police Department throughout these last two months. Many people have reached out to us and expressed their appreciation for the exemplary work that our employees do day in and day out. Our sincere hope is that the actions of Tyler Kinney do not cast doubt on the rest of the department who work tirelessly to protect Colchester. All of us are committed to making positive changes to ensure that something like this incident does not happen again. We thank you for your understanding and will be working hard to regain the community's trust in the days ahead.

